REMARKS

1. Applicant does not believe that the Examiner's actions with regard to the newly added limitations are appropriate as will be discussed hereinbelow.

2-3. Claims 109 (Thrice Amended), 163 (Thrice Amended) and 166 (Thrice Amended) have now been further amended to recite that the described invention includes at least two cameras controlled by a single automatic control system, which is clearly not anticipated by Uehara '543. Uehara requires two control systems, 32A and 32B, in communication via two communication control circuits, 30A and 30B, to accomplish the objective disclosed therein (FIG. 2; col. 2).

In addition, Claims 109, 126, 163, and 166 had been previously amended to recite that it is "a single automatic control system" which identifies the control devices and "one" camera is employed. Uehara '543 employs two separate system control circuits 32A and 32B and two cameras 10A and 10B for two operating devices 34A and 34B as discussed in Col. 2, lines 1-7 and as shown in FIG. 2. In addition, the claims were amended to recite that the automatic control system is the identifier of the control device. Further, Claim 126 was amended to set forth that the "at least two cameras" and the "at least two control devices" are located in the same "single area". Uehara does not function in the manner set forth by the Examiner since two system control circuits 32A and 32B are required.

Applicants believe that Claims 109, 126, 163 and 166 as now amended are not anticipated by the Uehara reference and further by reasons and arguments of record.

4-5. Applicants believe that Claims 110-125, 127-137, 141-162 and 164 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and are not obvious in view of Uehara and Parker '296. Uehara does not disclose this feature. The present invention not only remembers the device that issued a command but remembers such control device even after another control device has issued a command and does so via a single automatic control system. This is far from remembering the control device only while it is actually sending a command as is the case in Uehara, which utilizes a separate control system and a separate communication system for each control device.

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Claims 111-125, 127-137, 141-162 and 164 are believed to be patentable over the art in the same manner as the respective independent claims and by the specific steps recited in the dependent claims.

With regard to Claims 127-137, these claims are not anticipated by Uehara as discussed hereinabove, and are not obvious even when properly combined with Parker. Claim 127 was previously amended to correct an oversight in an earlier amendment.

With regard to Claims 141-162, Claim 141 depends on Claim 126 (Thrice Amended) and is not taught or suggested by the cited art for the reasons stated hereinabove.

Claim 164 depends on Claim 163 (Fourth Amended). Claim 163 (Fourth Amended) sets forth remembering identifying information that identifies a respective control device. Accordingly, Claims 163 (Fourth Amended) and 164 are not anticipated or obvious in view of the cited art.

6. Claims 138-140 are believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Uehara, Parker and Sano. Claim 138 recites a group of control devices at a single site under control of a single automatic control system, as contrasted to Sano's plurality of conference sites. Claims 138-140 are directed to the control of audio signals from the control devices being used, which are not found in any of the applied prior art, nor would it be obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art. Claim 126 (Thrice Amended) recites at least two control devices on which Claims 138-140 ultimately depend. In practice there may be several control devices in use and this feature is not found in the prior art.

Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 138-140 are not obvious in light of the cited art.

With respect to all the various individually treated claims in the above Office Action, while it may be true that Uehara, Parker, and even Sano disclose some of the features of the claims, it is not at all obvious in light of the cited art that they be employed with the features of the other prior art without reference to various methods and steps disclosed and claimed in the present application. The presently claimed system employs both identifying and remembering which control device issues what command so as to

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coordinate the activities of the system users and does so via a single automatic control system employing at least two cameras.

7. The present amendment does not raise any new issues but simply adds further limitations to the disclosed invention not previously believed necessary to define over the art of record.

The present amendment does not raise new matter issues because the use of the system with more than one camera has been disclosed and claimed from the date of the original filing.

The present amendment materially simplifies the issues presented by focusing on the fact that Uehara '543 does not disclose the capability to control more than one camera with a single automatic control system as recited in the present invention.

Furthermore, no additional claims are presented.

Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 109 (Fourth Amended), 125, 126 (Thrice Amended), 162, 163 (Fourth Amended) and Claim 166 (Fourth Amended) are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) or rendered obvious by an appropriate combination of the cited art under 35 U.S.C. 103.

8. A telephone interview is respectfully requested to resolve any remaining issue prior to any further action on the merits.

In the event that the Examiner continues in the rejections of these claims, it is requested that they be entered for purpose of appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

109. (Fourth Amended) A method of controlling the field of view of any camera in a system including [one camera] at least two cameras, a single automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the [one camera] cameras and at least two control devices being movable respectively by at least two users independently of the automatic control system and the [one camera] cameras to a selected location capable of sending commands to the automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the [one camera] cameras comprising the steps of:

A. associating each of the at least two control devices with respective of at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users;

B. associating at least one field of view of [the] one camera with a control device at a location selected by a respective one of at least two users;

C. remembering by the automatic control system a field of view of the [one] camera associated in step B;

D. issuing a command from one control device of the at least two control devices to the automatic control system;

E. identifying by the automatic control system the control device that issued the command in step D;

F. automatically moving by the automatic control system the field of view of the [one] camera to the field of view position remembered in step C and associated with the control device identified in step E;

G. issuing a command from another of the at least two control devices to the automatic camera system;

H. identifying by the automatic control system the control device that issued the command in step G;

I. automatically moving by the automatic control system the field of view of the [one] camera to the field of view position remembered in step C and associated with the control device identified in step H; and

J. remembering by the automatic control system the control device that issued the respective command in steps D and G after respective command has been received by the automatic control system issued.

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110. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 109 wherein step C includes the step[s] of:

H. issuing commands from each of the control devices of step A to remember a field of view position of the camera of step C.

111. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 110 wherein step F includes the step of:

I. moving the field of view of the camera of step C to the field of view position remembered in step G associated with the remembered control device of step H that issued the respective command.

112. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 109 wherein step C includes the step of:

H. remembering the position of the camera field of view of step C with respect to a known reference.

113. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 112 wherein step H includes the step of:

I. remembering the position of the camera field of view of step C in a first plane.

114. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 112 wherein step H includes the step of:

I. remembering the position of the camera field of view of step C in two planes.

115. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 109 wherein step C includes the steps of:

H. remembering specific variables of the camera of step C for each field of view remembered; and

I. automatically recalling the remembered variables when the field of view is recalled in step F.

116. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 115 wherein step H includes the step of:

J. remembering the iris setting of the camera field of view of step C.

117. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 115 wherein step H includes the step of:

J. remembering the zoom perspective of the camera field of view of step C.

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118. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 117 further including the step of:

J. automatically maintaining the zoom perspective remembered in step F when the camera field of view of step C is moved in step F.

119. (Thrice Amended) The method of Claim 115 wherein step H includes the steps of:

J. remembering the position of the camera field of view of step C in at least one plane;

K. remembering the zoom perspective of the camera field of view of step C; and

L. remembering the iris setting of the camera field of view[;] of step C.

120. (Thrice Amended) The method of Claim 119 wherein step F includes the steps of:

M. moving the position of the camera field of view of step C to the remembered position of step J;

N. changing the zoom perspective of the camera of step C to the remembered position of step K; and

O. changing the zoom perspective of the camera of step C to the remembered setting of step L.

121. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 109 further including the step of:

H. issuing a command to override subsequent commands from control devices affecting control of the field of view of [the] a camera.

123. (Thrice Amended) The method of Claim 109 further including the steps of:

H. controlling the field of view variables of [the] a camera;

I. remembering the field of view variables of the camera that are associated in step C; and

J. automatically establishing for the camera the field of view variables remembered in step I for the field of view position remembered in step C whenever the field of view position is recalled.

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163. (Fourth Amended) A system for controlling the field of view variables of any camera in the system comprising [a camera] at least two cameras, a single automatic control means for adjusting said field of view control variables of each said camera, at least two control devices being movable respectively by at least two users independently of said automatic control means and each said camera, said automatic control means including means for associating each of said at least two control devices with respective at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users and for associating said field of view of each said camera with respective control device at a location selected by the respective of at least two users, said control devices being movable to selected locations for sending commands to said automatic control means including first circuit means for identifying one said control device of said at least two control devices in said selected locations that has sent a command to said automatic control means and memory means for identifying each said command sent by said one control device, said command including identity information indicative of respective said one control device, said command including identity information indicative of respective said one control device which sent said command, said automatic control means remembering said identity information of said one control device after said command has been sent by said one control device to enable said field of view to be moved to one of the fields remembered, said automatic control means further including second circuit means for identifying another said control device of said at least two control devices in said selected location that has sent a command to said automatic control means and memory means for identifying each said command sent by said another control device, said command including identity information indicative of respective said another device which sent said command, said automatic control means remembering said identity information of said another control device after said command has been sent by said another control device to enable said field of view to be moved to one of the fields remembered.

166. (Fourth Amended) A method of controlling the field of view of any camera in a system including [one camera] at least two cameras, a single automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the [camera] cameras and at least two control devices being movable respectively by at least two users independently of the automatic control system and the [one] camera to a

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selected location capable of sending commands to the automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the [one] camera comprising the steps of:

A. associating each of at least two control devices with respective at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users;

B. associating at least one field of view of [the] a camera with a control device at a location selected by a respective at least two users;

C. remembering by the automatic control system the variables that define each field of view of the camera associated in step B;

D. automatically identifying by the automatic control system the field of view variable of a camera that a control device associated with the variables remembered in step C;

E. issuing a command from the control device identified in step D;

F. automatically changing the field of view of a camera to the field of view remembered in step C and associated with a control device identified in step D;

G. automatically identifying by the automatic control system the field of view variable another control device associated with the variables remembered in step C;

H. issuing a command from the control device identified in step G;

I. automatically changing the field of view of the camera to the field of view remembered in step C and associated with a control device identified in step G; and

J. remembering by the automatic control system the control device that issued the respective command in steps E and H after a command has been issued.

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